

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 IO-03 /029 W

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O R 071445Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9468

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP PINS CY

SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING CONGRESSMAN BEARD

REF: A. NICOSIA 2125

B. NICOSIA 2124

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM REFTTEL A (RECEIVED THIS MORNING) AND A SUBSEQUENT TELECON WITH NICOSIA THAT CONGRESSMAN BEARD RETURNED TO ATHENS JULY 6 AND PLANS TO DEPART FOR THE US TODAY, JULY 7. HE WAS NOT IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY DURING THIS PERIOD. THE AMBASSADOR TRIED TO REACH HIM BY PHONE THIS MORNING BUT THE CONGRESSMAN HAD CHECKED OUT OF THE HILTON HOTEL, AND PRESUMABLY HAS DEPARTED FOR THE US, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SURE.

2. AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY, JULY 3, FIRST HEARD OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONGRESSMAN COMING TO ATHENS AND POSSIBLY MAKING A QUICK TRIP TO CYPRUS. THIS WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING AND WAS QUITE VAGUE. STAFF MEMBERS OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, HERE FOR THE MEETING OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF AMERICA, HAD EARLIER APPROACHED THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE FOR A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL WHICH WANTED TO GO TO CYPRUS

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OVER THE WEEKEND TO MEET WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS.

HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY IN GETTING PLANE RESERVATIONS AND REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR THE GROUP, IF POSSIBLE.

3. INITIALLY ON THURS MORNING, WE WERE TOLD THE COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF FIVE MEMBERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN THE AFTERNOON, WE WERE TOLD THAT A CONGRESSMAN WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE FROM THE US TO JOIN THE GROUP, WHICH WOULD THEN NUMBER SEVEN, AT THE INVITATION OF A CONSTITUENT WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL. THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONGRESSMAN WAS IMPRECISE AND INDEFINITE.

4. THE EMBASSY RAISED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO THE GROUP BY TELECON THURS WITH EUR/SE. FROM THE BEGINNING, HOWEVER, WE INDICATED TO THE COUNCIL STAFF MEMBERS THAT ALTHOUGH WE WANTED TO BE HELPFUL THE REQUEST WAS A DIFICULT ONE TO JUSTIFY IN VIEW OF THE EXISTENCE OF COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICES. WE URGED THEM TO WORK THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE GOG WITH THE AIRLINES TO OBTAIN ANY SEATS THEY REQUIRED.

5. THE EVENING OF JULY 3, AT THE AMBASSADORS RECEPTION FOR ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS AND THE ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND THAT OUR ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED INASMUCH AS RESERVATIONS WERE BEING OBTAINED FROM THE AIRLINES, ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT TOLD OF THE SPECIFICS OF THE GROUPS TRAVEL PLANS WHICH APPEARED STILL TO BE INDEFINITE.

6. ON JULY 4, CONGRESSMAN BEARD UNEXPECTEDLY APPEARED WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS AND HIS ENTOURAGE AT THE AMBASSADORS INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION, WHICH WAS OUR FIRST AND ONLY, CONTACT WITH HIM. CONGRESSMAN BEARD EXCHANGED BRIEF GREETINGS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AS HE WENT THROUGH THE RECEIVING LINE AND LATER TALKED BRIEFLY WITH A FEW EMBOFFS. IN THESE CONVERSATIONS HE ONLY MENTIONED IN PASSING HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO CYPRUS BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. WE UNDERSTOOD FROM MEMBERS OF THE ARCHBISHOPS PARTY THAT THE CONGRESSMAN WAS TRAVELING PRIVATELY AND WAS GOING TO CYPRUS WITH ONE OF HIS CONSTITUENTS WHO WAS WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL. THE CONGRESSMAN DID NOT EVINCE ANY INTEREST IN ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE EMBASSY NOR ANY DESIRE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY NICOSIA.
KUBISCH

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